

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and following remarks.

Claim 1 is rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,626,473, hereinafter Klein.

Amended Claim 1 recites a vehicle door handle device including a handle body, a handle cover attached to the handle body, and an electric part disposed in an internal space formed by the handle body and the handle cover. The electric part has a first face facing one of the handle body and the handle cover and a second face facing the other of the handle body and the handle cover so that a gap exists between the second face and the other of the handle body and the handle cover. A first elastic member is disposed within the gap at a grip portion of the vehicle door handle device. The first elastic member contacts the second face of the electric part, and is pressed against an inner surface of both the other of the handle body and the handle cover and the second face of the electric part within the internal space.

The Official Action takes the position that Klein's material 23 constitutes a first elastic member, that Klein's bow member material 37 constitutes a handle body, and that Klein's other component 22 constitutes a handle cover.

However, Klein's material 23 is not pressed against the other component 22 within an internal space formed by the bow member material 37 and the other component 22, and is not pressed against the bow member material 37 at all. Indeed, it is quite clear from Klein's Fig. 2 that the material 23 is pressed against the other component 22, if at all, outside of an internal space formed by the bow member material 37 and the other component 22.

Accordingly, Klein does not disclose a vehicle door handle device including a handle body, a handle cover attached to the handle body, an electric part disposed in an internal space formed by the handle body and the handle cover, and a first elastic member pressed against an inner surface of one of the handle body and the handle cover within the internal space, in combination with the other elements recited in amended Claim 1.

Amended Claim 1 is therefore allowable over Klein, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is also rejected as being anticipated by Klein.

Amended Claim 7 recites a vehicle door handle device including a door handle having a handle body, a handle cover, and a hinge arm portion formed at one end of the door handle and pivotally mounted relative to a door outer panel via the hinge arm portion, and an electric part disposed in an internal space formed by the handle body and the handle cover. The electric part has a first face facing one of the handle body and the handle cover and a second face facing the other of the handle body and the handle cover so that a gap exists between the second face and the other of the handle body and the handle cover. A first elastic member is disposed within the gap at a grip portion of the vehicle door handle device. The first elastic member contacts the second face of the electric part, and is pressed against an inner surface of both the other of the handle body and the handle cover and the second face of the electric part within the internal space.

Amended Claim 7 is allowable over Klein for reasons consistent with the above discussion of Claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 7 is therefore also respectfully requested.

New Claim 14 recites a vehicle door handle device including a handle body, a handle cover attached to the handle body, and an electric part disposed in an internal space formed by the handle body and the handle cover. The electric part has a first face facing one of the handle body and the handle cover and a second face facing the other of the handle body and the handle cover so that a gap exists between the second face and the other of the handle body and the handle cover. An elastic member is disposed within the internal space at a grip portion of the vehicle door handle device. The elastic member is entirely disposed between an inner surface of the other of the handle body and the handle cover and the second face of the elastic member.

New Claim 14 is allowable for reasons consistent with the above discussion of Claim 1. Additionally, Klein's material 23 is clearly not entirely disposed between an inner surface one of a handle body and a handle cover and a second face of an elastic member. Accordingly, Klein does not disclose an elastic member entirely disposed between an inner surface one of a handle body and a handle cover and a second face of an elastic member, in combination with the other elements recited in Claim 14.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. The dependent claims also recite further distinguishing aspects of the method and packaging sheet material at issue here. For example, Claim 9 recites that the grip portion of the vehicle door handle device is formed between a hinge arm portion formed at one end of the vehicle door device in a longitudinal direction and an attaching portion formed at the other end of the door

handle device in the longitudinal direction, and the vehicle door handle is pivotally mounted relative to a door outer panel via the hinge arm portion. Klein's material 23 is clearly not disposed at a grip portion of a vehicle door handle device formed between a hinge arm portion formed at one end of a vehicle door device in a longitudinal direction and an attaching portion formed at the other end of the door handle device in the longitudinal direction, where the vehicle door handle is pivotally mounted relative to a door outer panel via the hinge arm portion.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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